

Amended Paragraphs With Markings to Show Changes Made

[0002] This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to provisional application No. 60/~~205,201,205,251~~, filed May 19, 2000, the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0015] ~~FIGFIGS.~~ 4 shows A and 4B show an information portal pursuant to an embodiment of the invention.

[0049] In step 205, content for an information portal is selected based on the analysis of the survey results. This step can be accomplished by the same individual or individuals who analyzed the survey results in step 203, or it can be accomplished by a different individual or group of individuals. Alternatively, this step could be accomplished by means of a computer program. The selection of content will thus be tailored to the content needs of the client, as reflected in the survey (which was designed to ascertain the client's content needs). An exemplary display screen for an information portal of an embodiment of the invention is depicted in and discussed in connection with ~~FIGFIGS.~~ 4,4A and 4B, below.

[0052] ~~FIGFIGS.~~ 4,4A and 4B, discussed below, ~~presents~~present a depiction of an information portal screen pursuant to an embodiment of the current invention. In other embodiments of the invention, the user can access the content of the information portal by telephone or mobile phone (in which case the content may be provided in audio format, for example through use of a computer-generated voice, clipped video format, or both), or other mobile devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs) or pagers.

[0053] In the depicted embodiment, information portal 305 receives as input from analyst 315 news summaries 316 and customized analyses 317. New summaries 316 are discussed in

more detail in connection with FIGS. 4A, 4B and 5, and customized analyses 317 are described in more detail in connection with FIGS. 4A, 4B and 8.

[0071] Analyst 315 may also receive information from the customer's intranet, and can use such information for preparation of summaries and in-depth analyses. Such information can also be made directly available to the customer through the information portal, as discussed (for example) in connection with FIG. 4, 4B, area 432.

[0083] FIGS. 4A, 4B and 5-11 show examples of screen displays used in some embodiments of the present invention. Upon reading the descriptions of these screen displays, it will be readily understood that different screen locations, different heading names, as well as a myriad of other differences are possible, but that such changes do not necessarily depart from the spirit of the invention. In addition, the embodiment depicted and described uses a computer mouse to "click" to select various options. It will be understood that means of selecting links other than mouse clicking can be used to practice the invention.

[0084] ~~FIG~~FIGS. 4 shows A and 4B show an example of a screen display for an information portal such as may be presented to an aggregation of users pursuant to an embodiment of the present invention. Although FIG. ~~4 depicts A and 4B depict~~ an information portal as may be seen on an Internet embodiment of the invention, it is important to understand that the invention need not be practiced on the Internet, and that the format for presenting the content generated by the invention can vary significantly from that depicted in ~~FIG~~FIGS. 4-4A and 4B. For example, the content generated by the invention, and described herein, can be published to a company's internal information distribution system, such as an intranet.

[0095] Returning to FIG. ~~4,4B~~, headlines of in-depth analyses are displayed in field 420. In this embodiment, clicking on a headline calls up an analysis screen such as the example depicted in FIG. 8 (where the asterisks in the center of the screen denote material omitted for purposes of fitting the screen on one page for purposes of illustration).

[0097] Screen 805 depicts an optional navigation bar 840, which provides easy access to other features of the invention. The navigation bar, which in some embodiments appears on many of the screens of the invention, is described in more detail in connection with FIG. ~~4A~~ (navigation bar 455), below.

[00101] Returning to FIG. ~~4,4B~~, webcast field 425 provides information about upcoming webcast events to be held by the provider, as well as information about how a user can set up a webcast event. Clicking the webcast tab provides access to webcasts for which the user is authorized access. In a preferred embodiment, webcasts are run in real-time, and users can participate, either by typing questions or comments onto their computers, or by speaking into microphones connected to their computers.

[00108] Returning to ~~FIG~~FIGS. 4,4A and 4B, market information area 430 enables the user to view pre-selected, up-to-date market information. Typically, this information comes from a third party provider. One third-party source of market information is Factiva, a Dow Jones & Reuters company. In the embodiment depicted in ~~FIG~~FIGS. 4,4A and 4B, the user is provided with market snapshot field 431 and selected stock quotes 432.

[00112] Kiosk area 435 in the embodiment depicted in FIG. ~~4A~~ provides access to various publications that may be of interest to the user, in various categories, including newspapers, trade press, broadcast, web-sites, internal, and other. The set of categories presented typically

varies from customer to customer, based on the survey results, and feedback from the customers to the provider. In some embodiments, moving a mouse cursor over one of the categories presents a pop-up window, which provides links to publications under that category. "Clicking" on one of these links will operate to provide access to a particular publication. In some embodiments, the links are customized to suit the needs of each customer.

[00115] Area 450 provides access to the database containing information stored by the invention. The database can contain all information that has been available through the information portal, including summary stories, in-depth analyses, webcasts, source articles, and learning modules. In addition, the database can contain content such as stories from third party providers that were used in preparation of the summaries and analyses. As depicted in FIG. 4, ~~4A~~, a user can enter a search query directly in field 451. In this embodiment, entering a search query and clicking find button 452 calls up screen 1005 of FIG. 10 (asterisks on FIG. 10 denote omitted material). In some embodiments, searching enables the user to search not only the provider's database, but also the designated databases of the customer itself.

[00117] Returning to FIG. 4, ~~4A~~, navigation bar 455 provides the user ready access to different features of the invention. In some embodiments, a navigation bar similar to navigation bar 455 is available on some or all of the screens (including, for example, the summary screen and the in-depth analysis screen) that the user may encounter when using the information portal. In these embodiments, navigation bars appearing on screens other than an information portal screen (such as that depicted in ~~FIG~~ FIGS. 4A and 4B), contain an additional tab labeled "Home" (as depicted in FIG. 8), which provides single-click access back to the information portal screen. In some embodiments, a navigation bar can contain a

tab labeled "Chat," for accessing a chatroom accessible to some or all of the information portal's users.

[00118] Returning to FIG. 4.4A, moving a mouse cursor over summary button 456 causes a pop-up display listing the regions for which news items are available. Moving the mouse cursor to any of these regions displays a list of headlines of summary items available for that region. Clicking on any of these headlines provides access to the summary screen. The summary screen is described in connection with FIG. 5, above.

[00119] On FIG. 4.4A, moving a mouse cursor over analysis button 457 causes a pop-up display of a list of in-depth analyses available for the customer. Clicking on an item on this list provides access to the analysis screen for that item. The analysis screen is described in connection with FIG. 6, above.

[00122] In the depicted embodiment, clicking "Profile" button 462 calls up screen 1105 of FIG. 11. On screen 1105, the summary tab 1110 has been selected, and area 1115 enables the user to select the regions, sectors, and competitors for which he wants information displayed on his information portal. In this embodiment, the regions list 1116 includes all regions, from which the user must select three. Sectors list 1117 lists the set of sectors (subject matter areas) identified for the customer in the survey and feedback from the customer to the provider. The user can select any or all of these sectors. Competitors list 1118 comprises a list of competitors generated as a result of the survey and subsequent feedback. The user may select any or all competitors, and the competitor information is then displayed in area 432 of the screen 405 on FIG. 4.4B.

[00123] On screen 1105, selecting intellikiosk tab 1120 calls up a display in area 1115 that enables the user to select the categories of publications which the user is interested in having access to via the kiosk button 435 on FIG. 4, 4A and subscription tab 1125 enables the user to choose the specific publications in those categories.